

BULLET BACKGROUND PAPER

ON

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER SCHOOL (IOS) ALABAMA GOODWILL AMBASSADOR
APPRECIATION NIGHT (AGAAN)

PURPOSE

AGAAN is hosted annually by the Commander, Air University to express gratitude to the Alabama Goodwill Ambassadors (AGA). AGA's are volunteer sponsors who assist international officers and their families. AGA's ease their transition into the local community and through their friendship help to foster international relations, make international officers and their families feel welcome, and create a lasting, positive impression of our nation and people.

DISCUSSION

- Planned and funded by IOS, AGAAN is held at the Officer's Club.
 - Funds are allocated by Air Force Security Assistance Training as part of DoD's Field Studies Program (reference DoDI 5410.17, *United States Field Studies Program (FSP) for International Military and Civilian Students and Military-Sponsored Visitors*).
- AGA's are formally recognized and those who meet certain criteria are awarded plaques.
 - For every fifth student sponsored, AU CC presents the AGA with a plaque as a token of appreciation for their time and service.
- Invited guests include all AGA's who have sponsored a student in the past year, local community leaders (mayors, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and other civic leaders), and AU faculty whose organizations directly interact with or support international students.
 - The "ranking" community leader is normally the Mayor of Montgomery.
- Attendance numbers historically are between 300-400 guests.

SUMMARY

AGAAN is an event of great significance and goes a long way to ensure the continued success of the AGA program; it is one of the only tangible means AU has to express its gratitude to our volunteers and other supporters from the local community.